

Italians Lose River Begin Wide Retreat

Cadorna Retiring Twenty-five Miles Toward Piave Line

German Wedge Breaks Defences

Pressure on Left Wing Helps Force Back Defending Armies

LONDON, Nov. 6.—The Italians have been forced to abandon the Tagliamento River line and are now in full retreat, from the Alps to the sea, toward the Piave, their next natural line of defence. The retrograde movement has spread not only along the entire Tagliamento line, but throughout the mountain region, on a front of nearly one hundred miles from the Fella Valley to the Trentino border.

This indicates that Cadorna probably intends to stand on a straight line behind the Piave, which runs southeast from the Venetian Alps to the Adriatic. Such a move would shorten his defensive front by approximately 100 miles.

To-day's German official communique states that the Tagliamento line has been won by Mackensen and that the Italians are in retreat through the upper Venetian plains and from the Fella Valley to the Colbrion, near the Trentino frontier. The Rome War Office, while admitting the evacuation of "portions of the territory in the mountainous regions," makes no mention of the withdrawal from the whole Tagliamento line. However, it says that the enemy has "pushed various detachments toward the middle and lower courses of the river, which unquestionably implies the forcing back of the Italian forces from the western bank."

Wedge Driven Into Line

Apparently, the Austro-Germans drove a wedge into the Italian line, and simultaneously brought strong pressure to bear on Cadorna's left wing, on the upper reaches of the Tagliamento. The rapid widening of the breach, the Germans believed, compelled the Italians to draw back their entire line to escape envelopment. At the same time, the front along the mountain district became untenable, Cadorna withdrew his forces from all the territory lying beyond and to the north and northwest of the Tagliamento.

The further retreating movement of the Italians does not indicate that the situation has become any more dangerous. It was by no means certain that Cadorna originally intended to stand on the Tagliamento. Many of the Italian strategists contemplated only a delaying operation behind that line in order to effect the defence of the Piave might be perfected.

The Piave, which lies some twenty-five miles beyond the Tagliamento, affords Cadorna a much shorter and probably a vastly stronger defensive front than the Tagliamento. It is only sixty miles in extent and runs nearly on a straight line from the mountains to the sea, at which point it is heavily fortified. Moreover, the German retreat will allow more time for the bringing up of French and British reinforcements, particularly in heavy artillery, the lack of which has proved a great handicap.

No More Prisoners Taken

So far the Germans have reported no further captures in the Italian movement, so that it is probable the Italian retreat had been planned beforehand and is now being carried out in an orderly manner. With the replenishing of their food supplies and the morale of the port of Allied troops, the morale of the Italian army is said to have undergone a vast improvement, and strong counter-offensive may be expected soon after Cadorna reaches his new line.

There is a bare possibility that the Italian command will choose to halt on the Piave, before he gets to the Piave, but the Livorno line is shorter and narrower and will give him few of the natural advantages which go with the Piave line. Beyond which he cannot withdraw without surrendering to the enemy Venice and the whole of Venetia, which is extremely unlikely he would do without a strong fight.

Germans Are Confident

The Germans are confident of success and are already preparing the public for a destruction of art treasures in the capture of Venice. In Italy, however, the eventuality of an Austro-German crossing of the Tagliamento has been foreseen clearly, according to a dispatch from the correspondent of "The Daily Mail" at Italian headquarters. The correspondent emphasizes the seriousness of the waters of the Tagliamento. He writes:

"Where so much has gone against Italy it would seem that even the Tagliamento has played her false. . . . The situation is changing somewhat. The Italians have been reinvigorated and have had some rest. There are many signs that their power of resistance is improving. The morale of the men has improved and is becoming more cheerful. The arrival of some Allied comrades probably is all that is needed to turn them again into a stubbornly resisting force."

Reiterating that the eventuality of an enemy crossing of the Tagliamento had been foreseen, the correspondent adds that the holding of the river has not been an essential part of the Italian commander's plan.

Over 50 Divisions Massed Against Italy

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, Nov. 6.—Italian military experts here expressed the view today that the Italian army, having given up the Tagliamento River line, would retire to the Piave, to make their more determined and what they hope to be a successful stand against the invaders. It was hinted that this is a decision which has been arrived at in

Passchendaele Falls to Haig In New Drive

Canadians Hammer Germans Back in Advance of Half Mile

Final Marks Are Gained, Says Report

Many Prisoners Already Brought In in Sanginary Battle

(By The Associated Press.)
BRITISH FRONT IN BELGIUM, Nov. 6.—The Canadians, in to-day's drive against the German lines, have captured Passchendaele and advanced about 800 yards beyond the centre of the city, battling their way to their final marks. A considerable number of prisoners have already reached the cages.

The attack, which was begun at dawn by the Canadians, has not only taken some of the attacking forces beyond Passchendaele out on to the ridge to the north, but on the Meetechele spur, a little to the northwest, and has carried them along the high ground toward the village of Mosselmarkt.

Meanwhile the British to the south again moved against Polderhoek Chateau, where the conflict is still proceeding.

Many airplanes were over the German front. Notwithstanding the poor visibility, the observers reported a large concentration of German infantry in the base hospital. The Germans also had pulled out their old troops and put in fresh divisions all along the line.

Wounded Americans All Doing Well

(By The Associated Press.)
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Nov. 6.—The American soldiers wounded in the German raid on a trench last week are all doing well in the base hospital. Some of them are suffering from painful wounds.

Artillery fighting continued fairly active on the American sector to-day.

Congress Delegation Visit Troops at Front

(By The Associated Press.)
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Nov. 6.—The American congressional party visited to-day the zone in which the troops are billeted and are receiving war instruction. They first visited headquarters in the town, but did not meet General Pershing, who is at present in Paris. They went to Major General Sibert's headquarters and were taken out to see the American troops in practice—going over the top, bayonet work on dummy Germans and an exhibition of their skill at sniping and with hand and rifle grenade, mortars and the smoke barrage.

During the hand grenade instruction pieces flew close to the Congressmen, who were enthusiastic over the energy displayed by the troops, and when one Congressman called for three cheers for the boys the party yelled itself hoarse.

Later the visitors went among the troops shaking hands, chatting and asking questions regarding the training. They especially commented on the physical fitness and cheerfulness of the American soldiers. They were told of Saturday's trench fight, and each was presented with shell cases of the first day's artillery firing against the Germans.

The Congressional party came from Verdun, where they inspected the defences and were entertained by the French commanders.

Red Decks on American Destroyers Puzzle Irish

BASE AMERICAN FLOTILLA IN BRITISH WATERS, Oct. 15.—When the American destroyers arrived at this Irish port the natives were puzzled by the appearance of their steel decks, which were painted a bright red. When the first American came ashore, an Irishman made bold to ask, "What makes your decks so red?" "Why they're red hot from the speed we made coming over," was the quick reply. The story has become one of the pet yarns of this port.

Official Statements

West

BRITISH

LONDON, Nov. 6 (DAY).—An attack was launched at 6 o'clock this morning against the enemy's positions in the neighborhood of Passchendaele. Our troops are reported to have been successful.

Yesterday evening Lincolnshire troops raided German trenches in the neighborhood of Hull and brought back a few prisoners.

GERMAN

BERLIN, Nov. 6 (DAY).—The German press today carried a report that the Italian army had been defeated in the battle of the Piave.

A German attack on our small posts west of Carnillet was repulsed.

GERMAN

BERLIN, Nov. 6 (DAY).—Army Group of Prince Rupprecht—in Flanders, after a vigorous destructive fire which lasted all day, 5 severe artillery duels yesterday evening and, between the northern portion of the Yper lowland and the canal from Comines to Yper, continued unbroken during the night and increased to drumfire this morning from Houthout Wood to Zandvoorde. Strong British infantry forces then attacked on both sides of Passchendaele and the Yper-Menin road.

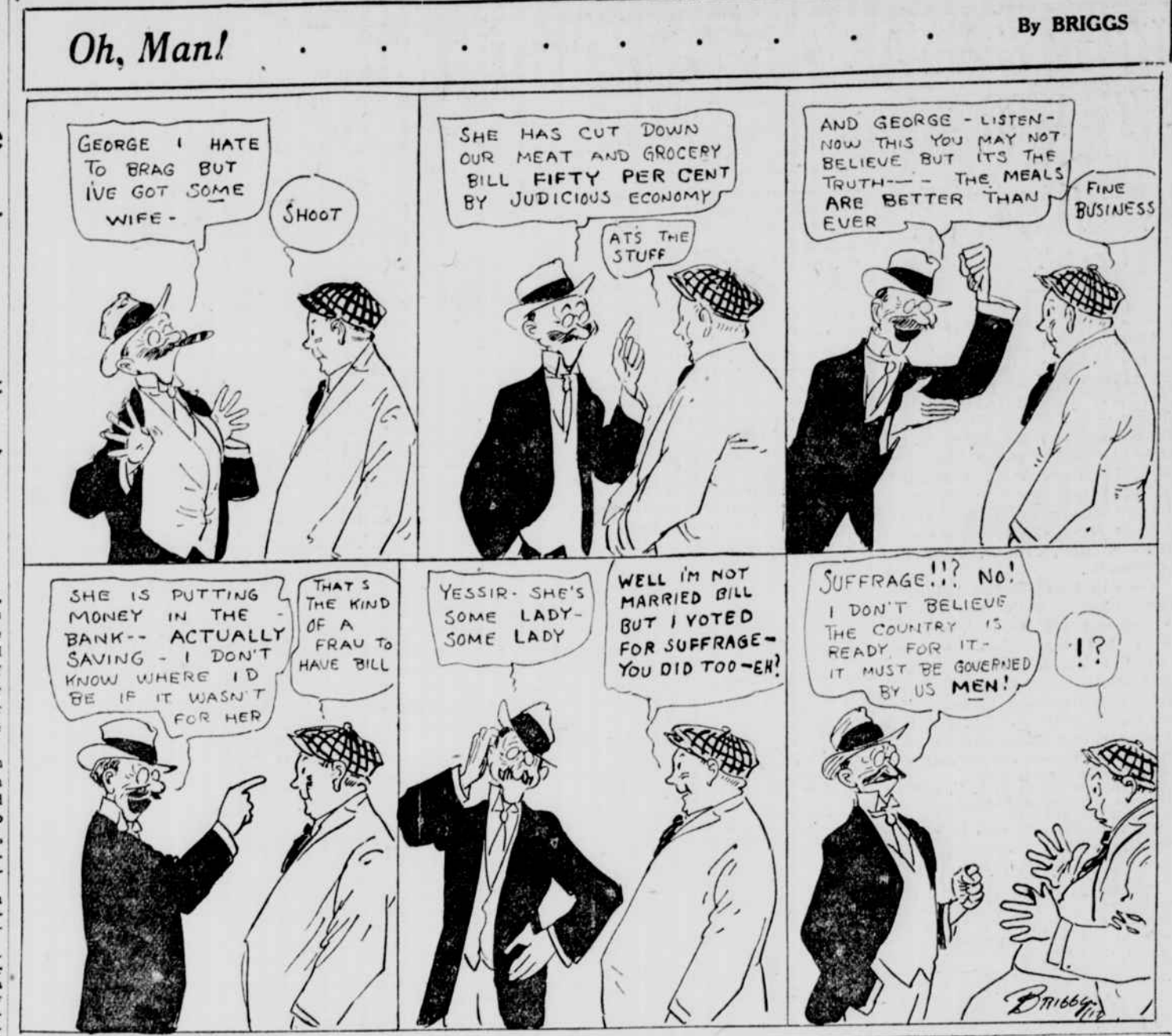
At other points on the Western front, especially near St. Quentin, along the Ailette, on both banks of the Meuse and in the Sambre, the artillery firing increased in the evening to considerable intensity. Powerful enemy reconnaissance failed at many places, with heavy losses.

(NIGHT).—Early attacks to-day by the British and French troops to tighten the noose around Passchendaele. At Gheluvelt an enemy assault broke down without having achieved any success and with heavy losses.

Italian Front

ITALIAN

ROME, Nov. 6.—Beside persisting in the intensified pressure from the zone of the Up-



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Pacifist Move In Commons Overwhelmed

House Backs War Till the Aims in Conflict Are Attained

British Motives Not Imperialistic

Secretary of Foreign Affairs Says Nation Will Continue Sacrifices

LONDON, Nov. 6.—A. J. Balfour, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, replying in the House of Commons to-day to a peace motion proposed by H. B. Lamb, Liberal member for Northampton, declared:

"The aims for which Great Britain entered the war were not and are not either imperialistic or vindictive, but one and all are needed for the double purpose of the emancipation and security of Europe."

Mr. Balfour asked the House to show by an overwhelming majority that "we believe in the cause in which we are struggling and which we know we can bring to a successful termination."

Great as are the sacrifices already made, we are ready to continue them, and continue them indefinitely until the great, righteous and unselfish objects we have in view are finally secured."

Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, amid loud cheers, moved closure, which was carried, 232 to 35.

Text of Lees-Smith Motion

Mr. Lees-Smith's motion was then negatived without division. The motion, which was supported by the pacifist group in the House, read as follows:

"This House is of the opinion, providing satisfactory guarantees can be obtained with regard to the independence and restoration of Belgium and the evacuation of occupied territory, that no obstacle should be placed in the way of preliminaries toward negotiations for a peace settlement which ought to embody an equitable solution of the problem of Alsace-Lorraine and of devising the enforcement of effective international machinery for the avoidance of future wars."

Effect of Secret Agreements

Discussions of Little Value

In the course of his remarks Mr. Balfour expressed the opinion that discussions of this kind did little to assist the object that those who started them had in view—the attainment of an honorable peace at the earliest possible date. He ridiculed the idea that secret treaties existed, as suggested by Mr. Lees-Smith, and declared that Great Britain was not a party to any such treaty.

He said that, and is not, the object of the Allies to take from the German Empire admittedly German territory," said Mr. Balfour. "But, of course, the Allies desire the restitution of Alsace-Lorraine to France."

"We are fighting, in the first place," said he, "that Europe might be free from the perpetual menace of the military party in Germany."

It was not Europe alone to be considered, he declared, and asked whether the movement of the amendment and the party and no care for the misgovernment and the most brutal and barbarous cruelty in Armenia and Arabia. The pacifist members seemed to think that all these matters could be satisfied by the European powers to talk together around a table.

"Is that common sense?" he asked. "Is it supposed that Germany would ever consent to restore, as has been publicly asserted, the ancient and modern Poland? Of course, she would not. It is no use waiting to meet around a peace table to determine that."

"Is it imperialistic to desire to see independent Poland? Is it imperialistic to see Germany restored to the rule of the tyrannical Turkey? Is it imperialistic to desire to see Italy restored to the rule of the tyrannical Austria? Is it imperialistic to desire to see Rumania restored to the rule of the tyrannical Rumania? Is it imperialistic to desire to see the Serbian community again a great and flourishing united power?"

In examining the situation, the Secretary said, the psychology of the German people must be considered. While that remained unchanged it was quite impossible for other nations to sleep comfortably in their beds.

Mr. Lees-Smith, in moving his resolution, maintained that successive secret agreements between the Allies had carried their war aims far beyond the original aims. He declared that he had been told by a German source that the German people were not only not to be deprived of territories on the left bank of the Rhine but had been confirmed in a secret session of the French Chamber by M. Ribot.

Foreign Secretary Mr. Balfour interjected here that the never was such an agreement. Mr. Lees-Smith retorted that it was an agreement made between France and Russia while Nicholas II was Emperor.

If this was carried out, said the member, there would be a new series of causes of discontent, discord and hatred which would once again drench Europe in war and blood.

Navy to Man Transports

Men Being Recruited for Fire- room Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6.—In preparation for the manning of all army transports with naval crews, the Navy Department to-day began special efforts to recruit and train men for fire-room service. Physical ability to stand the work is the only qualification required.

An efficient fire-room force is vitally necessary to the protection of transports and merchant vessels from submarines. Maximum speed is required for all vessels passing through the war zone, and a full head of steam must be kept up constantly. There have been too many instances of ships found impossible with civilian crews, in part through lack of training or discipline.